



Docket No. 572.007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE NOV 27 2002

In re Application of : Alkhalidi
Serial No. : 09/654,097 Examiner : N. Norton
Filed : August 31, 2000 Art Unit : 1764
For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTINUOUS
SEPARATION AND REACTION USING
SUPERCRITICAL FLUID

November 4, 2002

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

I hereby certify that this correspondence and any documents referred to as enclosed therewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on November 4, 2002.

Stanley D. Ference III
Reg. No. 33,879

November 4, 2002
Date of Signature

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

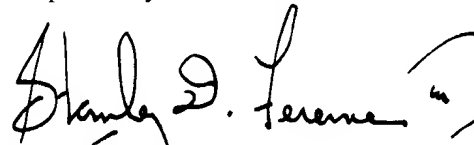
This is responsive to the Office Action dated October 2, 2002, for the above-identified application. This response is timely as the period for response ended on a Saturday and the response is being filed on the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday or Sunday.

The Examiner has asserted that Claims 1-10, drawn to a process (Group I), and Claims 11-26, drawn to an apparatus (Group II) are each directed to distinct inventions. The Examiner has required Applicant to elect one group of claims for prosecution.

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement. The asserted basis for the restriction requirement is "the apparatus as claimed can be used for a materially different process such as hydrocarbon conversion in the absence of super critical conditions." Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to Claim 11, the first claim of Group II, which recites "a sub-system in which a fluid to be processed is mixed with a **supercritical fluid.**" (emphasis added) It is respectfully submitted supercritical conditions are necessary for the presence of supercritical fluid. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the restriction requirement be withdrawn and all claims be examined at this time.

In the event the restriction requirement is not withdrawn, Applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group I (e.g., Claims 1-10).

Respectfully submitted,



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